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### REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending herein. New claim 8 is added hereby. Applicants intend to discuss new claim 8 during a personal interview with Examiner Dougherty, which is tentatively scheduled for September 10, 2002.

New claim 8 corresponds substantially to the subject matter of claim 7 written in independent form. The only difference is the recitation that the piezoelectric/electrostrictive operating portion extends from *an outer surface of* the fixation section onto at least a portion of at least one thin plate section.

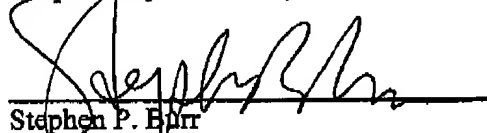
If Examiner Dougherty has any questions concerning new claim 8, he is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

September 4, 2002

Date

Respectfully submitted,

  
Stephen P. Burr  
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SPB/SC/tlp

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